Socialist Worker

PUBLIC MEETINGS

1798 THE YEAR OF REVOLUTION

- ***DUBLIN: Thursday June 18th, ATGWU Hall, Middle Abbey St***
- ***BELFAST: Wednesday July 1, Garrick Bar, Chichester St***
- ***DERRY: Tuesday 30th June, Sandinos Bar, Water St***
- ***GALWAY: Thursday 2nd July, Currans Hotel, Eyre Sq***
- ***CORK: Wednesday 24th June, Metropole Hotel***
- ***WATERFORD: Thursday 25th June, ATGWU Hall, Keyzer St***

All meetings start at 8.00pm

1798: The Year of Revolution

1798 was a year of revolution in Ireland. Inspired by the French revolution, the United Irishmen took on the fight against aristocracy. They showed that in the course of revolution, Catholic, Protestant and Dissenter could unite.

The revolution is still surrounded in myths. One hundred years ago, a Fr Kavanagh wrote a history where he argued that it was simply a rising to defend the Catholic faith. It was as if the rebels were singing *Faith of our Fathers* as they wielded their pikes. This is how the rising was presented to thousands of school students for decades afterwards.

Yet nothing could be further from the truth. Archbishop Troy of Dublin warned his 'flock' to keep away from the 'French disease'. The French revolution had confiscated church property. In other parts of the country, priests helped to draw up lists for the militias that would be used to suppress the rising.

Today some claim that the Orange Order is an expression of Protestant culture. But the Orange Order was created to suppress the most progressive and democratic instincts of those Protestants who helped to found the United Irishmen.

The United Irishmen were one of the most impressive revolutionary organisations in Europe at the time. Although they did not aim at a society which would abolish class rule, socialists defend their revolutionary instincts.

This is why the Socialist Workers Party is the only political party that has produced a pamphlet to mark the revolution. Come along the hear the launch meetings for this pamphlet in your area.

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